



Biography of Director Tom Schultz



Tom Schultz has served as the director of the Idaho Department of Lands since September 2011.

As secretary to the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board), comprised of the Governor and four other constitutional officers, Tom oversees the management of 2.4 million surface acres of endowment lands and 3.3 million acres of endowment minerals in the State of Idaho. The lands and minerals are managed under a constitutional mandate to maximize long-term financial returns to public schools and other State of Idaho institutions.

Tom also oversees the agency's regulatory responsibilities in administering the Idaho Forest Practices Act, Surface Mining Act, Dredge and Placer Mining Act, and Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act. As part of its responsibility to administer public trust lands – the lands submerged below the ordinary high water

mark of navigable streams and rivers within Idaho – IDL also carries out the Lake Protection Act.

Tom is the secretary to the five-member Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which regulates the exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas resources in Idaho. He also is the chairman of the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices.

Tom has oversight responsibilities of the agency's work in providing wildfire protection across 6.3 million acres of mostly state and private lands as well as a number of forestry assistance programs.

Prior to joining the Idaho Department of Lands, Tom worked for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for 14 years. He served as the administrator of the DNRC Trust Lands Division, and served as the administrator for the DNRC Water Resources Division from 2009 to 2010.

Before working for the State of Montana, Tom served as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Launch Officer in the United States Air Force.

Tom earned a Bachelor's degree in Government from the University of Virginia and holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Wyoming in Political Science as well as a Master's degree in Forestry from University of Montana.

Tom spends time with his wife, Carolyn, and their three children. He volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and hunts with his youngest son.